

OPINION 1462

CAECILIIDAE Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814 (Amphibia, Gymnophiona) and CAECILIIDAE Kolbe, 1880 (Insecta, Psocoptera): a ruling to remove the homonymy

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that, for the purposes of Article 29, the stem of the generic name *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758 is CAECILIA-.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: feminine), type species, by designation by Dunn (1942), *Caecilia tentaculata* Linnaeus, 1758;

(b) *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species by designation by Mockford (1969), *Caecilius fenestratus* Curtis, 1837.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *tentaculata* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Caecilia tentaculata* (specific name of the type species of *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758);

(b) *fuscopertus* Latreille, 1799, as published in the binomen *Psocus fuscopertus* (valid specific name at the date of this ruling for the type species of *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837).

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) CAECILIAIDAE Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814 (corrected spelling of CECILINIA, stem of name of type genus *Caecilia* Linnaeus, 1758, emended in (1) above), (Amphibia);

(b) CAECILIIDAE Kolbe, 1880 (type genus *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837), (Insecta: Psocoptera).

(5) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) CAECILIAIDAE Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814 (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect spelling of CAECILIAIDAE);

(b) CECILINIA Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814 (an incorrect original spelling of CAECILIAIDAE).

History of Case 2333

Moore, Nussbaum & Mockford (BZN 40: 124–128), referring to the homonymy between the family names CAECILIIDAE in Insecta (Psocoptera) and Amphibia (Gymnophiona), proposed that the stem of the psocopteran genus *Caecilius* be treated as CAECILION-, so giving the family name CAECILIONIDAE. Smith & Polhemus (BZN 41: 108–109) suggested, as an alternative, that the entire amphibian generic name *Caecilia* be taken as its stem, giving the family name CAECILIAIDAE. Wake (BZN 42: 220–221) supported the original proposals.

One of the original authors, T. E. Moore, suggested (BZN 41: 208) with reluctance that the generic name *Caecilius* Curtis, 1837 be replaced by the new name *Caecilionis*, so

giving CAECILIONIDAE in the Psocoptera; CAECILIUSIDAE was considered but disfavoured. Dubois (BZN 43: 6) commented *inter alia* that the first available family name for the caecilian amphibians was CECILINIA Rafinesque, 1814 (p. 104) (which by Articles 32c and 35d would be corrected to CECILIIDAE), and not CAECILIADAE Gray, 1825 (p. 217) as previously thought. In a comment during the voting period this view was challenged by M. Wilkinson (*University of Michigan, U.S.A.*), who considered CECILINIA unavailable because it was apparently based on an incorrect spelling rather than an emendation.

In an attempt to close the question the Executive Secretary surveyed the above situation, when circulating the voting papers, and recommended on balance the adoption of CAECILIADAE for the amphibian family (as suggested in BZN 41: 108–109); even though this was not very easy to pronounce it avoided the use of the new stem CAECILIONIS— or the new generic name *Caecilionis*, and was clearly based on *Caecilia*. The Commission was invited to vote for or against this course.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1987 the members of the Commission were invited to vote for or against the proposals set out in the voting papers. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1987 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—19: Bayer, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Gruchy, Hahn, Halvorsen, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Melville, Mroczkowski, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogotov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes—4: Alvarado, Kraus, Uéno, Heppell.

No votes were returned by Bernardi and Dupuis.

Hahn and Holthuis voted for the Executive Secretary's proposals, although they would have preferred to adopt CAECILIUSIDAE for the psocopteran family name, leaving the amphibian name unchanged; Kraus, who voted against, took the same view. Uéno, while not favouring the originally suggested psocopteran name CAECILIONIDAE, would have voted for it, and Heppell said that members of the Commission should have been asked to vote for or against the originally proposed CAECILIONIDAE. Alvarado favoured leaving the amphibian name unchanged, but made no suggestion for the psocopteran family.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling in the present Opinion:

Caecilia Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, ed. 10, p. 229.

CAECILIADAE Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814, *Specchio delle Scienze o Giornale Enciclopedico di Sicilia*, 2: 104.

CAECILIIDAE Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814, *Specchio delle Scienze o Giornale Enciclopedico di Sicilia*, 2: 104.

CAECILIIDAE Kolbe, 1880, *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung*, 41: 183.

Caecilius Curtis, 1837, *British Entomology* . . . , p. 648.

CECILINIA Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1814, *Specchio delle scienze o Giornale Enciclopedico di Sicilia*, 2: 104.

fuscopterus, *Psocus*, Latreille, 1799, in: *Illustratio iconographica Insectorum quae in Musaeis Parisiensis observavit et in lucum editit J. C. Fabricius* . . . A. J. Coquebert de Montbret [ed.], decas 1–111, p. 10.

tentaculata, *Caecilia*, Linnaeus, 1758 *Systema Naturae*, ed. 10, p. 229.